

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.1116**

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Allan Kincaid, Ken Brown and Harry Bell		
DATE:	February 27, 2006	SBD:	2006105
AUTHOR:	Senator McConnell	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	43-35-10
SUBJECT:	Special Investigative Unit Within SLED		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 1116 would establish a special investigation unit within the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division to investigate abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults and vulnerable adult fatalities.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:State Law Enforcement Division - SLED

SLED indicates there will be a cost to the General Fund of the State to carry out the responsibilities as outlined in this Bill. However, implementation costs may vary depending on intent with regard to the duties and responsibilities of the investigative staff. First year cost would be \$718,859 if it is the intent that these agents receive training and equipment necessary to respond to emergency situations and conduct criminal investigations other than those specified in this Bill. Such costs would include, among other things, providing each agent with two weapons, a protective vest, several radios and handcuffs. If it is legislative intent that these agents investigate only complaints relative to certain facilities, then first year cost could be estimated at \$516,440 which includes purchasing vehicles and phone service, but excludes those items listed above. Cost estimates for SLED are summarized below:

<u>Summary of Estimated Cost to SLED</u>		
	<u>Scenario 1</u>	<u>Scenario 2</u>
Agents (7 FTE's @ \$47,525 with fringe)	\$332,675	\$332,675
Other Operating Expenses	\$100,884	\$20,265
Toll-Free Phone Line	\$6,000	\$6,000
Subtotal - Recurring Cost Estimate	\$439,559	\$358,940
Non-recurring (First Year Only)	\$279,300	\$157,500
Total - First Year Cost	<u>\$718,859</u>	<u>\$516,440</u>

Lieutenant Governor's Office

The Long Term Care Ombudsman within the Office on Aging currently has abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adult investigative responsibilities within existing statutes. However, no staff or resources exist to carry out those responsibilities. The Bill further emphasizes the Ombudsman's responsibilities and distinguishes them from SLED's responsibilities with regard to investigations. The Office on Aging indicates there are over 6,000 complaints annually and estimates the cost of carrying out its investigative responsibilities at \$390,250. This includes salary and fringe for seven additional staff at \$302,390 and other operating expenses (rent, travel, supplies, phones, etc.) estimated at \$87,860 annually.

Department of Social Services

The Department indicates Bill would have no impact on the General Fund of the State or Federal and/or Other Funds.

The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs indicates there would be no additional cost associated with enactment. The Department of Mental Health has yet to submit a response for review and analysis.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Addy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" and last name "Addy" clearly distinguishable.

Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget